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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

17 AUGUST 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

The Situation in Berlin

The East Germans yesterday took steps which give the East-West Berlin sector border the character of an international frontier: a) floodlights are being installed, and mazes of concrete stanchions and permanent fences are replacing the temporary barriers erected on the night of 12-13 August; b) at some crossing points currency controls, of the type usually associated with international borders, were set up; c) on the zonal borders between West Berlin and East Germany, East German Communist youths are clearing away trees and underbrush.

A trickle of refugees continues--yesterday 30 were registered in West Berlin.

Within East Germany, [] there continues to be a good deal of outspoken criticism of the regime. Some critics are comparing East Germany to a concentration camp, while others are berating party functionaries with the charge that the new restrictions are, in fact, aimed at the East German population, not at West Berlin.

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In West Berlin, the US Mission reports, there is a feeling in government circles that the traditional calm of the West Berliners has given way to nervous tension and deepening depression. At the big rally held there yesterday, the prevailing crowd sentiment was "cynical and pessimistic" and our observers left with the feeling "that the Berliners had lost part of their faith in the ability of the free world to help preserve their freedom."

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1. Adoula-Gizenga meeting

Adoula left for the meeting in Stanleyville prepared to take a tough line in bringing Gizenga around to joining the central government. Key members of the Stanleyville faction who have already joined the Adoula government have

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decided to deliver an ultimatum to Gizenga: cooperate with Adoula or we break. Meanwhile, there are indications that both Ghana and Guinea may be getting ready to recognize Adoula, moves which would severely undercut Gizenga's bargaining position.

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2. Souvanna lieutenant planning military action

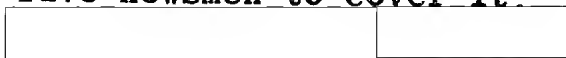
yesterday the military commander in Phong Saly had asked for permission to recall two battalions of troops from Communist China. Later messages reveal that he has Souvanna's go-ahead and that he plans to use the troops, apparently in a limited offensive against government forces in the Na Mo region of northwestern Luang Prabang Province. (MAP) 50X1

3. Neutralist conference



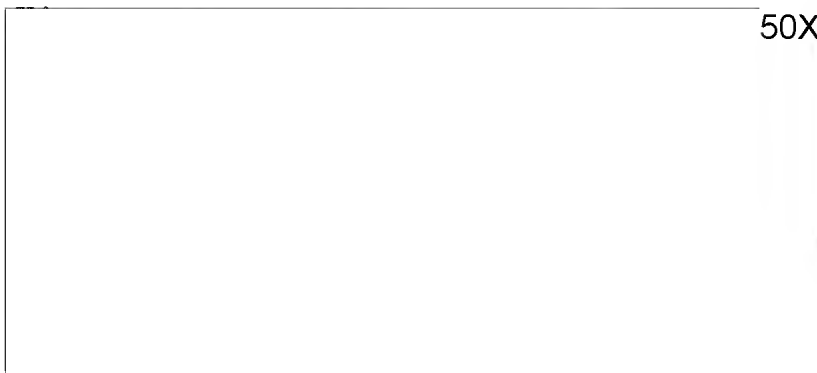
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Nehru continues to have little taste for the conference. An Indian diplomat quotes him as saying: "I look forward to attending the Belgrade conference with the same enthusiasm as I used to anticipate recurring visits to a British jail." However, the Chinese Communists, hitherto lukewarm about the meeting because of its Yugoslav setting, are now showing interest to the extent that they plan to send five newsmen to cover it.



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NOTES

- A. Preparations for an extended range firing of a Soviet ICBM appear to be underway. Two of the missile range instrumentation ships, which took part in the recent man-in-space operation, are near Midway and the other two are apparently now also headed for the Central Pacific. The attempt could come as soon as Saturday. The last similar shot, [redacted] occurred in July 1960. [redacted]

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- C. In a rare display of indiscipline which could be symptomatic of growing distemper, 2,000 Chinese rioted in Shanghai last week. They were angered by their inability to get river boat transport because of disruption caused by floods. [redacted]

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- E. Anti-Gaullists are hoping to stir up new trouble in Algeria this week. They expect a Moslem demonstration in support of Tunisia [redacted] which they would use to provoke police and army intervention. [redacted]

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- F. In British Guiana yesterday, Cheddi Jagan was injured, evidently not seriously, when attacked by followers of an opposition party. Elections are scheduled for next Monday.

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--16 August 1961

No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

We have no evidence of any significant or abrupt change in the Soviet military posture in the direction of increased readiness for general hostilities, but the USSR is continuing its efforts to improve its military capability. We have no evidence of a redirection of the civil sectors of the USSR toward mobilization.

The Communists have, by their actions in East Berlin and East Germany, effectively stopped the refugee flow while maintaining control over popular reaction. There are no indications that a large-scale uprising in East Berlin and East Germany is likely. Current alerts and redeployments of certain Soviet ground and air units in the Berlin area appear directed primarily at providing backup for East German military and security units now blocking the refugee flow into West Berlin.

For The President Only—Top Secret

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